

# memorandum

DATE: JUL 09 2003

REPLY TO:  
ATTN OF: EM-24 (Michael Conroy, 301-903-2728)

SUBJECT: Implementation of Standardized Container Procurement and Supplier Evaluation Program for Waste Containers at Environmental Management Sites

TO: Distribution

Consolidating procurements on containers commonly used across Environmental Management (EM) sites can save money when compared to the total cost for multiple procurement efforts by individual sites. These savings are multiplied by minimizing the number of quality assurance audits of the same vendor by multiple EM sites. EM field staff has identified one such savings opportunity through the development of a standardized family of containers for storage and transportation of mixed low-level/low-level waste (M/LLW) and partial centralization of the procurement process for such containers. I direct all EM field organizations to assess and participate in this coordinated procurement process, as described in the attachment by no later than September 2003.

The EM Office of Integration and Disposition (EM-20) transportation field staff at Albuquerque formed a M/LLW Container Study Group to develop a pilot program and business plan for consolidating procurement of drums and standard waste boxes. This pilot plan incorporates the recommendations of federal and contractor packaging and procurement specialists from EM sites. The plan focuses on the procurement, quality assurance, standardized packaging configuration, and performance of containers used in M/LLW storage and transportation.

The M/LLW Container Study Group collected and analyzed container data submitted by 29 Department of Energy (DOE) sites and recommended standardization of drum specifications, partial centralization of certain procurement functions for M/LLW containers, and consolidation of the quality inspections of suppliers. The group has completed the following tasks:

- Created standardized 55-gallon, Type A, open head steel drum specifications, based on integrated complex-wide site drum requirements.

- Established Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) with two suppliers on these standardized specifications through the General Services Administration Federal Supply Schedule.

- Developed a standardized Container Supplier Evaluation Program (CSEP) to ensure the quality of containers.

- Conducted one vendor Quality Assurance (QA) audit based on the standardized CSEP.

The Container Study Group recommends each site continue to retain the responsibility for:

Determining actual container/drum needs and attributes,

Scheduling container/drum deliveries with approved suppliers,


Determining costs, selecting the best value provider, placing the order under the BPA, and

Performing container/drum receipt inspections.

The Study Group estimates that a partially centralized container management approach for procurement and QA will result in unit price efficiencies (8-10%) through economy of scale and pre-negotiated BPAs, will minimize duplicative manufacturer evaluations, and enhance the quality of containers used by EM sites.

The Study Group will continue to provide technical assistance to EM sites in the implementation of the standardized drum pilot program. The group will also develop standardized specifications for a family of boxes to be used by sites and continue to perform container suppliers QA evaluations in coordination with other DOE supplier quality information working groups.

If you have any policy questions, please contact me at 202-586-5151. If your field office staff have questions regarding implementation of this program at their sites, please contact Ashok Kapoor at 505-845-4574.

  
Patrice M. Bubar  
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Integration and Disposition  
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Distribution

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# Container Standardization, Procurement and Supplier Evaluation Program for Waste Containers Implementation Process Steps

## DOE/EM sites have the following responsibilities:

- Sites are responsible for determining actual container needs and attributes.
- Sites will determine total cost of procurement order and select the best value supplier after considering several factors including shipping cost and service.
- Sites are responsible for performing container receipt inspection and making payments to the supplier

## Drum Standard Specifications and Procurement:

Standardized 55-gallon, Type A steel and UN performance drum specifications have been developed based on integrated DOE complex-wide sites' needs for storing and shipping M/LLW and TRU waste. The following are some common features:

- 208 Liter (55-Gallon) removable head, Type A, Carbon steel drum. Drum is also rated as PG I and PG II and I for liquid hazardous materials.
- Drum Options included: Construction from 16/16/16/ gauge (0.0533) steel, various gasket styles, bungs, coatings and liners.

To assist in the procurement of these drums, Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA) have been established with suppliers based on standardized drum specifications through General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Schedules as follows:

- BPA Number DE-AB04-03AL68658 with Myers Container Corporation, GSA Federal Supply Schedule contract number: GS-15F-0011J. (DOE/NNSA SC Contact: David Nienow, CO, 505-845-6072, e-mail: [dnienow@doeal.gov](mailto:dnienow@doeal.gov); Myers Container Corporation, Contact: J. Bise, 510-772-1675, e-mail: [jbise@myerscontainer.com](mailto:jbise@myerscontainer.com)).
- BPA Number DE-AB04-03AL68659 with Skolnik Industries, Inc., GSA Federal Supply Schedule contract number: GS-14F-6127A. (DOE/NNSA SC Contact: David Nienow, CO, 505-845-6072, e-mail: [dnienow@doeal.gov](mailto:dnienow@doeal.gov); Skolnik Industries, Inc. Contact: W. Dean Ricker, 1-800-441-8780 ext.105, and e-mail: [dean@skolnik.com](mailto:dean@skolnik.com))

Each BPA includes an authorized list of DOE sites and prices for base drum and cost (or no cost) of optional features which accommodate the majority of needs identified at DOE sites for this type of drum. The BPAs include estimates of shipping costs from supplier to the receiving site. Actual shipping costs will be provided prior to placement of a delivery order.

## Standardized Container Supplier Evaluation Program:

A standardized Container Supplier Evaluation Program (CSEP) has been developed based on ASME NQA-1, DOT and DOE requirements to ensure the quality of containers received from suppliers. Utilization of this program will relieve suppliers and sites from having to conduct multiple reviews of the vendors.

The EM field transportation program staff at Albuquerque will continue to perform the following functions:

- Maintain standard specification of 55-gallon drums.

- **Develop** standards for 30-gallon/85-gallon drums and waste boxes in coordination with sites.
- **Review** and approve any changes to standard container specifications if requested by sites.
- **Maintain** CSEP and conduct container supplier quality assurance audits. Also, develop and **maintain** QA audit database and monitor vendor performance.
- **Provide** vendor QA audit records to DOE sites' contractors.

For copies of the BPAs, CSEP and vendor quality audits, please contact Ashok Kapoor of the EM Transportation Team at 505-845-4574 or [akapoor@doeal.gov](mailto:akapoor@doeal.gov) at the DOE/NNSA Service Center, Albuquerque, NM.